



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

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**Dems Viewed as Farther from Political Center than is GOP**  
**VOTERS RATE THE PARTIES' IDEOLOGIES**

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## Dems Viewed as Farther from Political Center than is GOP VOTERS RATE THE PARTIES' IDEOLOGIES

In broad terms, voters view the Democratic Party's ideology as the opposite of the Republican Party's: 58% say the Democratic Party is either very liberal or liberal while 56% say the GOP is either very conservative or conservative.

However, more voters view the Democratic Party as *very* liberal than see the Republican Party as *very* conservative (26% vs. 18%). As a result, the average rating for the Democratic Party's ideology among all voters is somewhat farther to the left than the Republican Party's is to the right. The Republican Party's rating also is closer to voters' average ratings of their own ideology, which is slightly to the right of center.

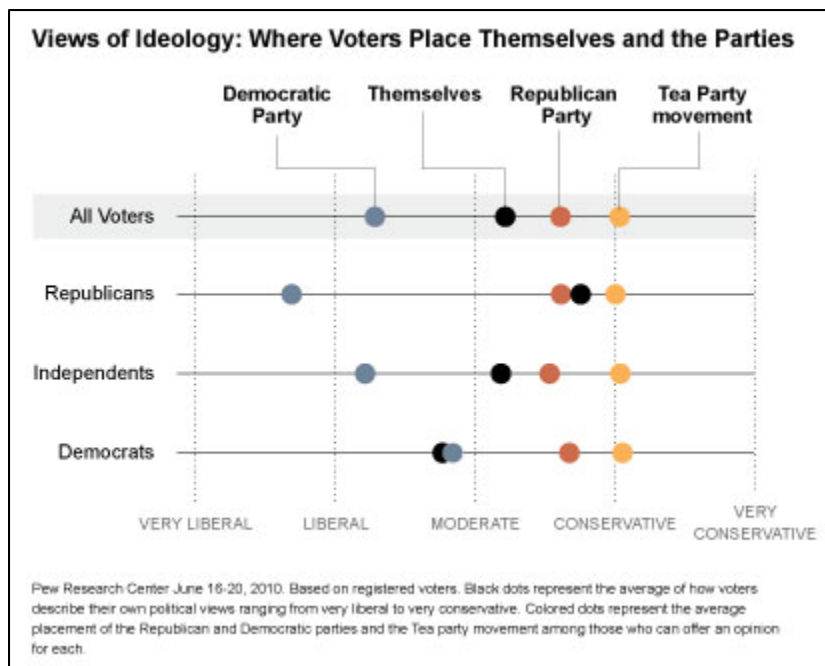
**Voters Views of Parties' Ideologies:  
Democratic, Republican and Tea**

	<i>Political views of...</i>			Your <u>own</u> %
	Dem <u>party</u> %	Rep <u>party</u> %	Tea <u>party</u> %	
Very conservative	3	18	20	9
Conservative	9	38	21	30
Moderate	26	26	7	36
Liberal	32	9	3	16
Very liberal	26	4	2	6
No opinion/ Not heard of/DK	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100	<u>48*</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100
NET Conservative	12	56	41	40
NET Liberal	58	13	5	22

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Based on registered voters (N=1496).  
 \* 21% of voters had not heard of Tea Party and were not asked about its views; 26% said they had no opinion.

These average ratings reflect sharp differences between how Republican voters view the Democratic Party and how Democrats view the GOP. More than eight-in-ten Republican voters (83%) say the Democratic Party is liberal (34%) or very liberal (49%). By contrast, a smaller majority (61%) of Democratic voters view the GOP as conservative (33%) or very conservative (29%).

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 16-20 among 1,802 adults (1,496 registered voters) reached



on cell phones and landlines, finds that the Tea Party movement is viewed as conservative, though not extremely conservative. One-in-five voters (20%) say the Tea Party is very conservative while about as many (21%) see it as conservative. Nearly half of voters (48%) had no opinion of the Tea Party’s ideology or had never heard of the movement.

### Voters’ Political Views

In assessing their own political views, 40% of voters describe their own political views as conservative (either conservative or very conservative), 36% as moderate, and 22% as liberal (including very liberal). There are substantial differences in the way that Republican and Democratic voters describe their political views.

Fully 65% of Republican voters describe their views as conservative (18% very conservative, 47% conservative), compared with 29% who say their views as moderate and just 5% who say they are liberal. Democratic and independent voters are more diverse ideologically: 42% of Democrats say they are liberal (including 10% very liberal), 32% are moderate and 24% are conservative. Among independents, 48% describe their views as moderate while 33% say they are conservative and 17% are liberal.

The survey makes it possible to compare voters’ own views with their assessments of the parties’ ideologies. About half of all voters (53%) view the Democratic Party’s ideology as more liberal than their own. A smaller percentage (41%) says the Republican Party’ ideology is more conservative than their own ideology.

An overwhelming proportion of Republican voters (83%) see the Democratic Party’s views as more liberal than their own political views. By contrast, far fewer Democratic voters (60%) say the GOP is more conservative than they are. Among independent voters, 56% say the Democratic Party is more liberal than they are; just 39% find the GOP to be more conservative than they are.

<b>Most Republicans See Themselves as Conservative; Democrats Are More Divided</b>				
<i>Describe your political views...</i>	<i>Political views of...</i>			
	All voters	Dem voters	Rep voters	Ind voters
	%	%	%	%
Very conservative	9	5	18	6
Conservative	30	19	47	28
Moderate	36	32	29	48
Liberal	16	32	3	14
Very liberal	6	10	3	4
DK/Refused	2	2	1	2
	100	100	100	100
NET Conservative	40	24	65	33
NET Liberal	22	42	5	17

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Based on registered voters.

Many Republican voters place themselves ideologically to the right of their own party. More than a third (35%) says the GOP is more liberal than they are; that is about the same percentage (38%) that says the Republican Party's ideology is the same as theirs. Fewer Republican voters (23%) say the party is more conservative than they are.

Among Democratic voters, 44% say their party's ideology is the same as their own, while 29% see the Democratic Party as more conservative than they are; 23% see the party as more liberal.

Nearly half of all voters (48%) either never have heard of the Tea Party or express no opinion of its ideology. Among voters expressing an opinion, 26% say it is more conservative than they are, 17% say its views are the same as theirs and 9% see it as more liberal. Three-in-ten Republican voters place the Tea Party at the same point as themselves ideologically; 17% say it is more conservative while nearly as many (12%) see the Tea Party's views as more liberal than their own.

<b>Majority Sees Democratic Party as "More Liberal," Fewer See GOP as "More Conservative"</b>				
<i>Compared w/ your views...</i>	All			
	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<b>Democratic Party is...</b>	%	%	%	%
More liberal	53	83	23	56
The same as you	26	7	44	25
More conservative	16	6	29	12
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Republican Party is...</b>				
More conservative	41	23	60	39
The same as you	26	38	12	31
More liberal	27	35	23	24
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Tea Party is...</b>				
More conservative	26	17	35	26
The same as you	17	30	5	18
More liberal	9	12	8	7
No opinion/Not heard of/DK	<u>48</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>
	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center June 16-20, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Based on registered voters.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of ABT/SRBI Inc. among a national sample of 1,802 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from June 16-20, 2010 (1,201 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 601 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 256 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample.....	1,802.....	3.0 percentage points
Form 1.....	902.....	4.0 percentage points
Form 2.....	900.....	4.0 percentage points
Republicans.....	528.....	5.5 percentage points
Democrats.....	581.....	5.0 percentage points
Independents.....	596.....	5.0 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JUNE 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**JUNE 16-20, 2010**  
**N=1,802**

**QUESTIONS 1-44 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 Now thinking about the positions of the parties these days ... would you say [INSERT FIRST ITEM] is very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: "Would you say [ITEM] is very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?"]

		<u>Very conservative</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Very liberal</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK\Ref</u>
a.	The Republican Party Jun 16-20, 2010	17	37	26	9	5	7
b.	The Democratic Party Jun 16-20, 2010	3	10	28	31	23	6

**NO QUESTIONS 46-49**

**QUESTIONS 50-79 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.80 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year? Have you heard ... [READ]

<u>Jun 16-20 2010</u>		<u>May 20-23 2010</u>	<u>Mar 11-21 2010<sup>1</sup></u>
30	A lot	38	26
43	A little	38	42
26	Nothing at all	24	30
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

**ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.80=1,2):**

Q.81 From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

<u>Jun 16-20 2010</u>		<u>May 20-23 2010</u>	<u>Mar 11-21 2010</u>
9	Strongly agree	10	9
15	Agree	15	15
10	Disagree	8	7
8	Strongly disagree	10	7
30	No opinion either way	31	29
*	Refused (VOL.)	1	1
27	<i>Not heard of Tea Party/DK</i>	25	31

<sup>1</sup> In March 11-21, 2010, question was worded: "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year?"

**ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.80=1,2):**

Q.82 Would you say the Tea Party movement is very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal or don't you have an opinion?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Jun 16-20

2010

17 Very conservative  
 18 Conservative  
 7 Moderate  
 3 Liberal  
 1 Very liberal  
 27 No opinion  
 \* Refused (VOL.)

27 Not heard of Tea Party/DK

**NO QUESTIONS 83-85**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

**ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Apr 8-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)		Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No	Other	(VOL.)	Rep	Dem
				preference	party	DK/Ref		
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK ALL:**

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as... **[READ]**?

Jun 16-20

2010

- 8 Very conservative
- 28 Conservative
- 39 Moderate
- 16 Liberal
- 5 Very liberal
- 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)